

THE MCGILL DAILY

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"Consultation process" called a farce

Activists to protest when Axworthy Committee comes to town

BY MELANIE NEWTON

Montréal labour and anti-poverty groups will send a clear message to the federal government next week — we disagree with your social policy reform proposals and we think the "consultation process" is a sham.

When the Parliamentary Committee on social policy reform comes to town on Wednesday, December 6, The Montréal Coalition to Save Our Social Programs (La Coalition pour la survie des programmes sociaux) plans to meet them with a demonstration. Similar protests have already happened around the country. Students in Regina stormed the building where the consultation was being held and stopped the entire process.

Led by Liberal MPs Sheila Finestone and Martin Cauchon, the Parliamentary Committee is being touted as the federal government's way of letting citizens have their say. But according to welfare rights activists, the questions and challenges they have about the Green Paper are not really on the agenda.

"We believe that this whole consultation process is just masking the fact that a lot of these decisions have already been made about the orientation of the changes," said John Kinloch, the co-ordinator of Multicaf, a community kitchen and anti-poverty group in Côte-des-Neiges.

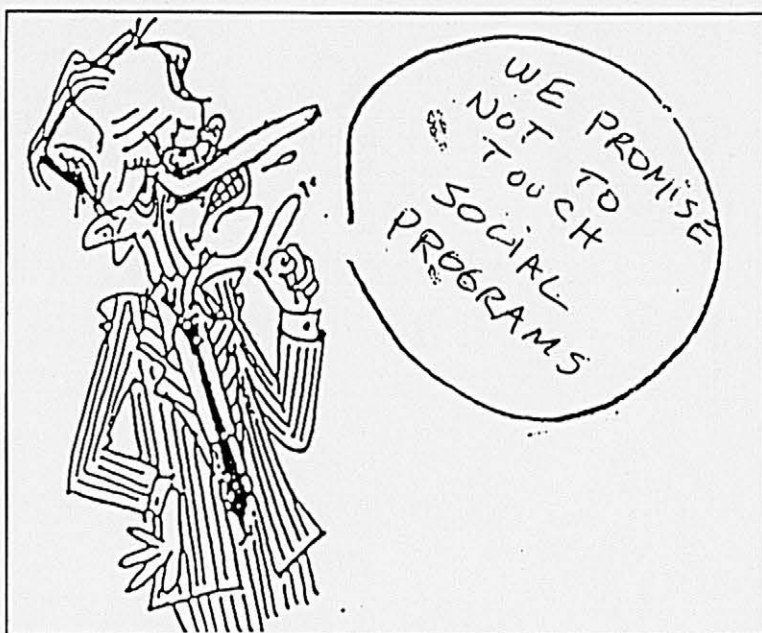
At a community meeting two weeks ago organised by the Coalition, Montréalers demanded to know why unemployment insurance, welfare and education have been targetted in the Green Paper.

Labour and student organisations across the country have suggested that the government try basic tax reform to heal Canada's financial woes.

"The government's agenda wants to maintain low corporate tax, and to hide this agenda they are willing to go after welfare and education. What we see in the document put out by Axworthy and in all kinds of government pronouncements is that the poor are the reason for the deficit," said Kinloch.

Headed, "Our argument is that you should look at tax rates and interest rates, and the rate at which corporations pay tax and at which the rich pay tax."

In a document entitled *The Straight Facts* released recently, the Canadian Labour Congress said that, under the current tax system, the average income household pays



How to get involved

On December 6, the Federal Committee responsible for the consultations on this reform will be in Montréal.

Meet at 1pm at Multi Caf (5829 Côte-des-Neiges) or at Project Genesis (5940 Victoria).

For information call the Côte-des-Neiges/ Snowdon Community Council: 739-7731, Multi Caf: 733-0554, or Project Genesis: 738-2036.

24 per cent of their income to the federal government when all federal taxes are added together. By contrast, the richest ten per cent pay just 20 per cent.

The document also states that \$1 of every \$3 of corporate profits is earned by corporations which paid no corporate income tax.

Activists saw it coming

Both Kinloch and Jean Yves, co-ordinator of the Table régionale des

organismes volontaires pour l'éducation populaire (TROVEP), said that the ideas outlined in the Green Paper are the latest — not the first — in a series of attacks on Canadian social services.

Kinloch pointed to the provincial Liberal government's 1993 decision to limit the benefits of most categories of welfare recipients. The new provincial policy, which was opposed by most Québec welfare groups, went into effect on October 1 this year.

There are currently 783,245 Québeckers on welfare. About ten per cent of the population is officially unemployed, with 64.2 per cent of the households on welfare being single parent households.

According to Yves, the shift in provincial and federal policy was obvious. So much so that the Coalition was set up in May, months before the Green Paper's release, specifically to fight the Axworthy reforms, because many labour and anti-poverty organisations saw them coming.

"What Lloyd Axworthy is doing is an extension of what you saw with the Québec welfare reform, which we don't need at this time. It starts from the premise that we have to cut and then we'll work from there, and that's not the premise we want to start with," said Kinloch.

Who's the problem?

The government seems to agree with welfare rights, labour and student organisations that the deficit, poverty and unemployment are a problem. But they can't seem to see eye to eye on exactly what the nature of the problem is.

The Green Paper outlines a plan to help Canadians "get and keep jobs." According to the paper, the problem is not a lack of jobs, rather a lack of skilled workers who can do the jobs available.

Opponents say that this assumption is, at best, erroneous.

"All of the proposals in the Axworthy Discussion paper are based on a false assumption. The government acts as if hundreds of thousands of good jobs are available and just waiting for sufficiently qualified

workers! Nothing could be further from the truth," reads a pamphlet distributed by the Coalition.

Kinloch says that, although the ideas in the Paper may not become law before winter 1995, "time is a concern" in the fight to get the government to consider alternatives.

"I think they've already started to implement a lot of things. Axworthy's trying to downplay the impact of it, but it opens the door to all kinds of changes and cutbacks. Now is the time to make it clear that we are not in favour in the things being proposed," he said.

The 51-member Coalition includes mainly unions and anti-poverty groups. So far the only student organisations which have joined have been from L'Université de Québec à Montréal.

Organisations from Montréal and Ontario will send representatives to next Wednesday's demonstration. Speakers will address the crowd in English and French. There will also be a moment of silence to commemorate the Polytechnique massacre, which occurred on December 6 1989.

The place of the sitting of the Parliamentary Committee has not yet been announced, so demonstrators are asked to meet at the offices of their local anti-poverty groups. Everyone is encouraged to make an effort to attend.

On November 28 and 29, a bus load of protesters organised by the Coalition to Save Our Social Programs went to Québec City to stage a demonstration at the opening of the National Assembly. They constructed a shantytown out of Party Québécois posters to remind the provincial government that poverty and homelessness are still a serious problem in Québec.

Researcher Anna Rosmus speaks at McGill

Disturbing tales from post-Holocaust Germany

BY TAMAR MILSTEIN

Despite harassment, lawsuits, verbal and physical abuse, threats and other instances of hate, Anna Rosmus of Passau, Germany has been doggedly working since 1980 to reveal the carefully concealed Nazi past of her hometown.

The author of several books on the subject of wartime Passau and the heroine of the movie *The Nasty Girl*, Anna Rosmus spoke at McGill on Wednesday, November 16 as part of the Anne G. Bailey Lecture Series on Human Rights.

Hitler's childhood home for a year, Passau was the site of Eich-

mann's wedding, and more significantly, the site of the latter's creation of the Reich's plans for Jewish deportation and the annexation of Austria.

Because of her courageous investigations, "social isolation, hate, intrigue and envy became constant companions" for Rosmus. A victim of violent attacks in public places including restaurants, she said that "death threats since many years have been an intimate part of my life." In addition, her two young daughters have been targeted in threats.

In the face of such hostile obstacles, "I have to ask myself if I can

justify" this pursuit of justice, Rosmus said.

Her movie alone is testimony to her enormous, and as of yet incomplete success. The *Nasty Girl* received an Oscar nomination and the best film award in the 1990 Berlin Film Festival. Yet, the local Passau newspaper barely mentioned its existence, she said.

But such negligence is typical of a town that clammed up 14 years ago, when the veteran winner of an earlier national essay contest about Freedom in Europe began research on a second essay. Its focus was "My Hometown During the Third Reich."

Rosmus spoke in detail to the audience of the packed lecture hall about Passau's World War II past. Its history was scarred by numerous events, including the first official anti-Jewish boycott in 1926, the 1936 delivery of a Jewish citizen of Passau to Gestapo hands by two prominent town priests, and later, a mass murder.

"Newborn and unborn babies were killed out of their mothers' wombs — some of them even piecemeal," the impassioned speaker said.

continued on page 9

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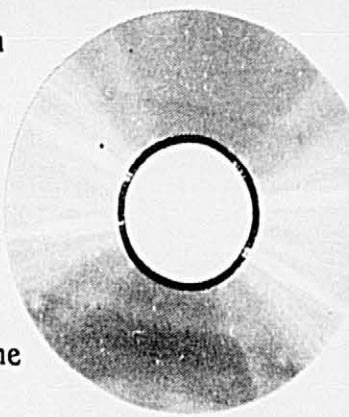
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The Canadian Federation of Students prepares for battle

(an interview by Kris Schantz)

Daily: In short, what is the CFS?

Caron: The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) is a national alliance of students from across the country. The CFS was created in 1981 from the remnants from what was called the Nation Union of Students... today it represents 440,000 students from Canadian universities and colleges, in 65 student associations.

The founding principles of the CFS are to fight for affordable, accessible and quality post-secondary education. The CFS is the longest living national student association in the history of Canada.

What role does McGill play in the CFS?

McGill undergraduates aren't members of the CFS, but McGill graduates through the Post Graduate Student Society (PGSS) decided by referendum to join the CFS as full members in May 1993. There was an agreement made in 1981 between the CFS and the Association nationale des étudiants et étudiantes du Québec (ANEEQ), through which they agreed to work together, and the CFS decided not to pursue any active recruitment in Québec. Since then, ANEEQ has lost some of its power, and the PGSS decided to apply for membership in the CFS. Since that time, the PGSS has been very involved in both the CFS and the National Graduate Council, which is the graduate component of the CFS. The Vice President of the National Graduate Council is from McGill.

The CFS has criticized Lloyd Axworthy's plans from day one, and has organized a nationwide student strike on January 25, 1995 in opposition to the proposed changes to Canada's social security programs. What suggestions does the CFS offer for solving Canada's current financial problems?

We understand and appreciate the federal government's financial problems and financial constraints... We want to participate in the consultation, which we did when we presented a brief directly to the Human Resources department Standing Committee on November 4, in which we stated that yes, the post-secondary education system needs to be reviewed. We agree with that wholeheartedly, with the federal government. This is not the problem.

The main problem is the fact that the consultation, if it is to be accepted by the government, must come within the parameters which are being offered — that is, the elimination of \$2.3 billion in cash transfers and the implementation of an income-contingent loan repayment plan, with the creation of the perception that from now on post-secondary education is to be considered as a price investment rather than society's responsibility.

If we try to bring in any options that do not include cutting \$2.3 billion or the loan plan, then we are considered as radicals and as unreasonable. We believe that whatever outcome the consultation brings, it will not solve the problem, and will actually jeopardize post-secondary education if [Axworthy's] measures are implemented.

It is our belief, from the numerous meetings we have had with representatives of the federal government, including Mr. Axworthy, that the government intends to proceed with this, and the consultation will not change anything. That is why we are organizing this strike, which we are considering more of a proactive move than a reactive

The McGill Daily recently interviewed Guy Caron, President of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Although McGill undergraduates are not members of the CFS, Caron's comments touched on issues which will affect all McGill students.



move in the way that Mr. Axworthy is asking for consultations from "ordinary Canadians", and we want to offer him a mass consultation from "ordinary students".

The CFS is a grass roots organization. We want individual members to have a chance to express their feelings. That is why the January 25 strike will be a perfect opportunity for Lloyd Axworthy to hear from approximately half a million students.

What do you feel is the importance of a strong, unified, national student body during this crisis?

It's absolutely necessary, and is crucial at this present time. One of the tactics that Mr. Axworthy has tried to use up to now was to divide the student movement. It's crucial to have a unified student movement at this time, more than ever. If we are divided, Mr. Axworthy will be able to implement whatever he wishes, and we will have a post-secondary system that nobody wants, but nobody could have prevented because we were too divided.

The CFS has often been criticized in the past

for being unorganized and ineffectual. What action is the CFS taking to resolve their past problems so that it will be able to face current crises?

My term started in May, so I can hardly talk about what happened five or six years ago. The makeup of the CFS and its action is determined by the members. The members decide exactly what direction the CFS will take. We have two general meetings a year. The priorities of the CFS are determined by the members. We are trying to be as organized as possible and do as efficient lobbying as we can.

The work of the CFS is not limited to the two weeks of meetings. There is the rest of the year during which the CFS pressures the federal government. The CFS is what the members want it to be. Obviously, since we are a national organization, we have many different views from coast to coast. Every one of our 65 student associations has their own priorities and their own view of what the CFS should be. The majority determines the makeup of the CFS. Not everyone is happy with the actions the CFS has decided to take.

How can students lend their support to the effort against Mr. Axworthy's proposals?

There are many ways. First of all, they can get involved with their own student association, and learn exactly what their student associations are and what their student associations intend to do. Basic action such as writing to MP's, organizing a strike, or presenting a brief [to the Axworthy Standing Committee] from "ordinary students". Students interested in the post-secondary education in this nation could actually have their voice heard.

What is the CFS's view on Quebec's current political situation in regards to the Canadian student movement?

[The CFS] has a policy of searching for national standards in post-secondary education, while respecting Quebec's post-secondary education, which is different than any other province. The coming referendum in Quebec has been discussed, and it has been decided that the CFS will not get involved. There is a general consensus that our members will respect the self determination of Quebec people to determine what they want for their province. We won't get involved in any way in the coming process.

The future of post-secondary education will also depend on the decision which will be made, but [the CFS] feels that it is not the role of other students to get involved in something which will have to be decided by the Quebec people.

At the recent protest by the University of Ottawa, held on November the 16, some students pelted Mr. Axworthy with pasta, eggs and fruit. What is the CFS's reaction to this?

The CFS does not condone such action. The CFS sent a letter to Axworthy's office stating that although the CFS's position will be firm in the future about the social security review, we did not organize such an action... that's not a way to proceed.

It did not come as a directive of anyone, not the student's association of the University of Ottawa, and not the CFS. It's sad that it came from individuals, and it's not the way to go.

What is your view on the future of the CFS and the future of the Canadian student movement?

I think that in the future the student movement has to come from the grassroots. Some people say that protest and strike are unreasonable and radical. [I think that] it's democracy in action. If students are involved, it will be the most effective student movement... students have to get involved.

There was a general sense of apathy on most campuses across Canada. This will have to end. If it doesn't end, we will have to face the consequences of [Axworthy's] actions, which will mean that the post-secondary education system in Canada will begin to look more and more like the system which exists in the United States. Is that what we want for our system? We don't think so. We don't think that would be beneficial for students.

We need students to get involved... and to offer help in organizing democratic action. Most importantly, [students have] to be aware of what is going on. The government is still supposed to be a government for citizens, and students are citizens.

The Human Resources department of Canada's Standing Committee, headed by Lloyd Axworthy, will be in Montréal on December 6th and 7th.

DAILY GRAPHIC BY 20TH CENTURY FOX AND KRISTIN ANDREWS

COMMENT

Challenging the divisions in the fight against the Green Paper

"Our" issues vs. "theirs"

"Crucial elements of the system, notably education and social assistance, are the mandate of provincial and territorial governments. The federal government has no intention of intruding where it should not..."

— *The Green Paper on Social Policy Reform*, p. 58

Before you read the rest of this comment, take a few moments to ponder the following questions:

- If you have heard about the Axworthy report, how will it specifically affect you and those close to you?
- What organisations in Montréal can you join to get involved?
- What are our own undergraduate Students' Society and Post Graduate Students' Society doing to fight the proposals?

On the surface, the response so far to the now infamous Axworthy report has been impressive. Twelve thousand students demonstrated on Parliament Hill, welfare rights groups are lobbying provincial and national governments and there has been wide-spread condemnation of the proposed reforms in the student press.

Maybe the federal government got more than it bargained for when it concocted the wide-ranging reforms outlined in the paper. Those poor old bureaucrats must be so out of touch with the population that they thought their slashes to social programs would slip by in a haze of blissful apathy.

Or did they?

In October, at a press conference at Queen's University, Lloyd (can we call you Lloyd?) Axworthy reportedly made the snide comment that senior citizens and young people would soon be embroiled in a petty fight over financial crumbs. This implies he's confident that, rather than fighting the reforms together, "interest" groups affected by the cuts would spend their time squabbling.

Was he right? Here in Montréal, the only student groups participating in the Coalition to Save Our Social Programs — an organisation founded to combat the reforms — are those at the Université du Québec à Montréal. McGill's students' societies have not joined, focusing instead almost exclusively on the student issues in the proposal.

Although the post-graduate student societies at McGill and Concordia are members of the Canadian Federation of Students (which is allied with several unions and anti-poverty groups), their general membership doesn't seem to be rallying against the whole of the Axworthy plan any better than most students.

When asked if McGill's undergraduate Students' Society would join forces with any non-student organisations to protest the reforms, VP External Nick Benedict said the Society would only collaborate "on a low level." as "Their focus doesn't really deal with higher education."

This is quite an interesting — some might say disturbing — statement. Isn't it a little pathetic that, in this climate, when we are in danger of losing all our social programs, student governments still have the silly notion that somewhere in this battle there exists such a thing as an "external political issue" that doesn't affect students? Destroying the welfare system, slashing Unemployment Insurance — these, you see, are "external issues." Raising tuition fees, now, *there's* an issue of significance to students!

Come on, read the quote at the beginning of this comment. It's no accident that cuts to tuition, welfare and UI are all falling under Lloyd's axe. There is no imaginary line between so-called "university student issues" and issues of poverty and joblessness. To think this boundary exists is myopic.

We run the risk of playing right into the government's hands. They would be stupid if they didn't expect a reaction. But already there is a lack of communication developing — "our" issues are not perceived to be connected to "theirs".

The government could easily say tomorrow "OK, OK. We won't cut education funding. We won't send your tuition fees up to \$4 000 a year. We'll leave that part out and just cut welfare and UI." Is that good enough? The answer is no. With myopic vision it is easy to fall into this trap.

Attacking the deficit through *any* cuts to social funding is like knocking over the first domino: sooner or later, they *will* come for education. And the day could come when you cannot find a job and are trapped in the inhuman welfare system they want to create and you can't pay your kids' tuition. Then you would be very sorry nothing more was done to stop these reforms.

Also, selfish interest cannot be the only motivation for action. This battle is all about promoting a more just society. Our social programs are supposed to be there to look out for others, not just for ourselves.

Melanie Newton

Students' Society will develop a position paper on the Axworthy reforms:

Do you remember being consulted?

Were you aware that the Students' Society's External Affairs Committee has put together a position plan of alternatives to the Axworthy proposal?

You weren't? Well, that's probably because no one told you. Sure there was an article in the SSMU Journal (if you ever read it, you are in a minority on this campus). Sure the issue was brought up at Council (your faculty reps were supposed to consult you. Did they? Thought not). However, no tables were set up to solicit suggestions; no posters were put up. Doesn't that sort of remind you of how the Liberal government put their proposal together?

So, what to do now? Well, don't wait for the Students' Society to come to you. Nick Benedict's number is 398-6798. His office is in the Shatner Building. Go bother him and demand to know why your opinion was not solicited. While you're there, ask what is happening with those 10, 000 workbooks on social policy reform students were supposed to get in October.

The Coalition to Save our Social Programs can be reached at 739-7731 (the Côte-des-Neiges/ Snowdon Community Council), 733-0554 (Multicafe) or 738-2036 (Project Genesis). Ask them about community centres near you.

Your papers won't matter much if you can't pay your fees. It's always the wrong time for apathy, but now is particularly bad.

The position paper will be discussed at Students' Society Council this week, Thursday, 18h, in the Shatner Building. Stop in at the Shatner lobby to find out the room.

OMISSION

In the November 24 Culture issue, the Daily neglected to credit the author of the front page article, entitled "Capoeira! the Brazilian martial art comes to Canada". The writer is Tafadzwa Kasambira.

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THE MCGILL DAILY

The schizophrenic stage

McMurtry's "Enthusiasm of the Species"

BY REBECCA McKECHNIE

Michael McMurtry, a writer, but a performer "first and foremost", is in Montréal to perform his one man show 'Enthusiasm of the Species'. The show is comprised of eight characters who enthrall you in a whirl wind of conversations, offering much humor and an abundant amount of "communal energy" according to McMurtry.

After studying acting for two years in New York city, McMurtry has emerged to great acclaim with his current production. Inspired by writer and actor Eric Bogosian, McMurtry developed his one man show, writing "off and on for two years". His debut at the '92 Toronto Fringe Festival has lead to extensive showings, including a four week run at Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille.

The seventy minute routine combines varying personalities, embod-

are honest to themselves, their ideas, and their behaviour". While the context of the show may have profound understatement, the presentation is enlightening and satirical.

So, you may be thinking that you don't have time to actually go out and see a play, no matter how entertaining it might be. You have finals in a week, and a major paper due tomorrow. But we both know that you'll spend hours procrastinating and simply planning

your study schedule. There is time in your stressful and academically filled life to take a breather, to leave the confines of your home and to embark on an evening of enticing diversion. It will be therapeutic, really.

'The Enthusiasm of the Species', presented by Street People Theatre Company, is running Wednesday and Thursday night only. Performances start at 8:00 p.m., at The Savoy at Club Metropolis. Tickets are \$8 for students. Call 937-2028 for information.



Michael McMurtry in his one-man show which combines varying personalities, embodied in a seemingly schizophrenic mind

ied in a seemingly schizophrenic mind. They range from "a California dude" to "an elderly Eastern European Woman". They are bound to amuse. The flurry of the quick witted structure showcases fantastical talent, which does not require props, or a stage for that matter. The characters "talk to the audience and to each other", while leaving an individual impression that ultimately stems from McMurtry's "literal ideas", culminated from unspecific sources.

McMurtry does not confine his play to a specific theme, rather, it is "a development of philosophical and psychological notions". It is a "meditation" of sorts, defying the common "linear" structure of the one man show. McMurtry, quite confident of the show's appeal, says "don't pretend you don't have the time to see this show". He realizes the ever present need for an evening of good humor.

In his attempt "to say something original", as a writer, McMurtry is "finding my voice while building my work". The ideas in the show are broad, though they are admittedly centred around the "struggle to be authentic", and the question of "how often people

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McGill

VICE-PRINCIPAL (ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE)

The position of Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) at McGill University will become vacant on June 30, 1995 upon the retirement of Mr. John Armour after sixteen years of service in this position.

An Advisory Committee has been established to assist the Principal in the identification of a candidate or candidates suitable to assume this senior University position.

The Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) is responsible for the planning and management of University finances, the development and administration of human resource policies and practices for administrative and support staff, compensation for all faculty and staff and equity issues in human resources activities. This University officer functions in English and French.

Comments, nominations and applications regarding this position should be forwarded in confidence to Principal Bernard Shapiro, c/o Secretariat, James Administration Building, 845 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec H3A 2T5 before **January 30, 1995.**

McGill University is committed to equity in employment.

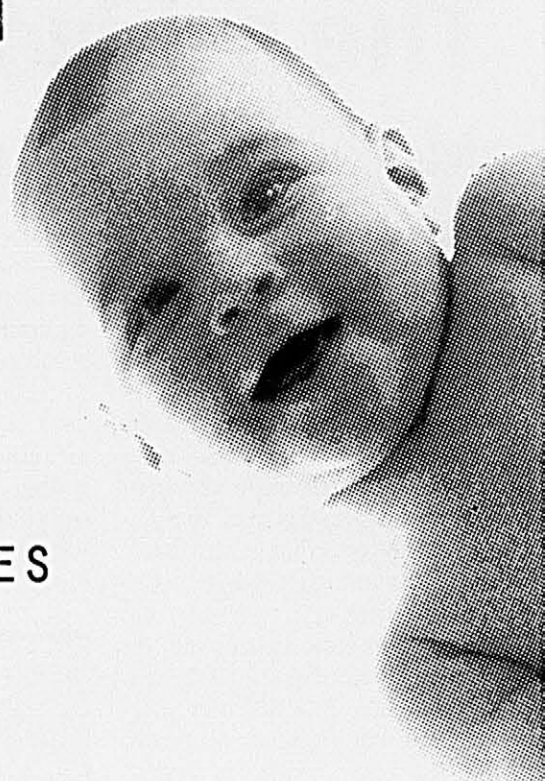


OUR MOTHERS OURSELVES?

WOMEN AND THE NEW REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES



BY IDELLA STURINO



A thirty seven year old woman sits in the waiting room of her doctor's office in Toronto. She waits to find out the results of an amniocentesis test, which will reveal whether her fetus has any malformations or disorders such as Down syndrome. If there are complications, she can choose to have an abortion. Oh Please, let it be okay.

A reproduction clinic in California offers services that can detect the fetal sex as early as twelve weeks into pregnancy, so that an undesired sex can be aborted. A husband and wife enter this clinic for their test results and as they do the woman thinks to herself, Please, let it be a boy.

A privately funded research program screens embryos made in petri-dishes for genetic abnormalities before using them for in-vitro fertilization. According to this model of IVF, couples can order both a specific sex and a baby without genetic deficiencies. The "please" in this case is pre-empted.

ABOVE ARE a sampling of today's new reproductive technologies. Most people would agree that they are very different situations. The decision to abort a fetus with Down syndrome is not the same as using genetic screening in IVF to choose the sex and genetic make-up of a child.

The term "new reproductive technologies" itself refers to numerous technologies related to pregnancy, which were not available even a generation ago (see bar information). The use of these technologies also varies. Sex selection clinics are not nearly as common as IVF ones. The Canadian public seems to be much more willing to accept artificial insemination, amniocentesis or IVF procedures than it is to accept sex-selection procedures into the hall of new reproductive technologies.

But critics argue that the fact that these technologies are being used, regardless of where or how, demands an examination of their ethical implications. A growing voice of dissent argues that NRTs all involve eugenics: the selection of human life based on chosen characteristics. The selection process may take place in a woman's womb when she decides to abort a fetus because it has Down syndrome, or in a petri-dish with an embryo that is screened for genetic abnormalities before being implanted in a woman's uterus. In either case, it is eugenics.

However, for the woman waiting to find out if her baby has Down Syn-

drome, the woman who wants to bear only a boy, and the soon-to-be woman who wants a genetically perfect baby, the situation at hand has little to do with eugenics. For these women, who are desperate to conceive, or simply hoping for a healthy baby, the issue is one of choice. *This is about me and my baby, and if the technology exists to help us, who are you to stop me?*

Indeed, the concerns and demands of pregnant women in terms of NRT's are not unreasonable. That is what makes this issue so difficult, so divisive. Critics of NRTs are not unsympathetic to the situations of pregnant women using them. Yet in spite of this, the debate is often painted by the media as a fight between feminist critics on the one hand, and infertile couples on the other.

Gwenne Basen, a writer, filmmaker, and vocal critic affiliated with the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) noted that "feminists were always being paired up with the desperately infertile couple, and we were made to seem like heartless feminists who didn't want women to have babies."

NAC, however, does not see its position as one which seeks to prevent women's reproductive freedom. Instead it sees NRTs as a way of subverting that freedom to broader social agendas, and holds that the language of choice, while appropriate in the abortion debate, just doesn't cut it here.

Abby Lippman, a professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Bio-

statistics and acting director of the McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women, recognizes the importance of individual choice, but insists on looking at things on "a collective level." She asks "why are we deciding that we don't want children with Down syndrome to be born? These are the questions that society is making by making these tests available."

For critics, it is clear that what is at stake goes beyond a woman's right to choose and enters something else, maybe even the alteration of human reality. For them, the issue centers around selection — not "can I screen my fetus for Down syndrome" — but "why Down syndrome?"

THE NAZI PARALLEL

It is when critics begin examining this question — why are we making these technologies available — that the eugenic discussion most clearly comes in, and comparisons with Nazi Germany can be made.

Eugenic activity was the crux of Nazi Germany's racial hygiene plan. Jews, disabled people, gypsies, homosexuals and other minorities were murdered en masse in an attempt to leave only the "pure Aryan" race behind to carry on what would be "perfect procreation." This was eugenics at its crudest and most horrific height: selecting some human beings over others. Modern new reproductive technologies like pre-implantation diagnosis are also based on a set of criteria.

Lynn Glazier writes in her chapter in *Misconceptions* that "no area of biomedical science draws more analogies to the Nazi era than genetics." Glazier is not the only critic to draw a parallel between new reproductive technologies, which have a strong genetic connection, and Nazi Germany.

She and other critics see pre-implantation diagnosis as a slippery slope, too slippery to be tampered with. At what point do we begin screening for characteristics aside from disease, and select embryos from, with, say, white skin and blue eyes?

I WISH I'D NEVER BEEN BORN

Another major criticism of NRTs, particularly PND techniques is that, by making value calls on what kind of human life is preferable, the lives of disabled people will be increasingly deval-

ued. Given Canada's record in this regard, it is not a fictitious Orwellian fear. Canada had forced sterilization laws for mentally disabled people as early as 1928, earlier than the Nazis. Disabled people, particularly women, continue to face an uphill battle when it comes to being treated equally, let alone humanely.

So it is not surprising that the Disabled Women's Network has been one of the most vocal groups on this issue. They worry that disabled people will face discrimination once the practice of preventing the birth of disabled people has become commonplace.

Abby Lippman asks of pre-natal diagnosis, "What does it say about tolerance of differences?" If the devaluation of disabled people becomes systematized in medical and social processes, will disabled people go through life wishing they had never been born? Will society?

Given that most disabilities are incurred after birth, there will always be disabled people who face discrimination. Shree Moulay, a cardiologist at Royal Victoria Hospital, noted that "Most of the disabilities that are caused are not due to genetic defect. Most of it is due to accidents."

She went on to say that by using pre-natal diagnosis, "You are not going to be able to eliminate people who have disabilities from society, because you have addressed only a small fraction through PND [Pre-Natal Diagnosis]." So people with disabilities will continue to face negative societal attitudes.

Meanwhile, millions of dollars are being poured into NRTs, and little on prevention or social programs to deal with the realities of disability. While recognizing that there are certain diseases which make the life of infants very painful, Moulay says of PND that "it doesn't really make sense to use that approach, because every society has to be able to prepare and take care of people with dis-

abilities, whether they are due to congenital problems or otherwise."

WOMEN AND BIG BUSINESS:

WHO STANDS TO BENEFIT?
Presumably, the most powerful and influential players in the unfolding drama of NRTs would be women, since their bodies act as the stage for these events. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

The pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries wield a huge amount of power when it comes to deciding the future of the reproductive process. These industries are "among the most profitable manufacturing industries" in Canada and the world, according to a draft document released by NAC in June, 1994.

The dominant companies in these industries are large, transnational corporations which have large amounts of capital to invest in research activity. What this means is that major research projects in NRTs, like the EPICS (Early Pre-Implantation Diagnosis) program at University Hospital in London, Ontario, are funded by private business.

The result is that the direction of research is largely determined by an industry which stands to gain millions from the application of its findings.

The potential profits to be made should not be underestimated. Hormone related drugs, used as treatment for infertility and one of the most common forms of NRTs, have one of the highest rates of growth of all prescription drugs in Canada. And with fertility clinics charging anywhere between hundreds and thousands of dollars for treatment such as in vitro fertilization, it is easy to see that the profits do not stop there.

DOCTOR KNOWS BEST?

Like a big drug companies, doctors have a strong hand to play in the direc-

TECHNOLOGY IN- POWER WHEN IT THE REPRODUC- RE "AMONG THE INDUSTRIES" IN

tion of NRT usage. Many of the NRTs, such as fertility drugs and IVF, have become routine procedure in the medical treatment of infertility, and are seen as safe and ethical solutions. But there is much evidence that these techniques are far from safe, let alone ethical.

Kate Fillion writes of fertility drugs in an article in Toronto Life magazine, April 1992, that "there are virtually no studies of the long-term effects on women and children". She draws worrying comparisons to thalidomide and DES, two drugs that were prescribed to pregnant women between the 1940's and 1970's which caused cancer, malformations and reproductive failure in offspring. What's more, women have died from IVF.

Shnee Moulay, in regard to the concerns that fertility drugs cause serious medical complications (such as ovarian cancer), said, "there is certainly a valid concern out there".

Viewed in light of the significant risks involved, both documented and unknown, the new reproductive procedures being used as treatment are in fact experimental. And women are being used as the guinea pigs. This poses another ethical glitch in the evaluation of whether or not these technologies should be used.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON NRTS: PROCESS DOWN THE DRAIN

The Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies released its final report, 'Proceed with Care', nearly one year ago. Since then, nothing has been done.

The Commission was appointed in 1991 by Brian Mulroney in response to a huge lobbying effort made on behalf of many women's groups, who recognized the need for a public review of the NRTs. These NRTs were being used with virtually no regulatory

mechanism in place.

The public review process they were hoping for, however, was never truly achieved, and NAC soon withdrew its support for the commission and began its own intensive probe into the ongoing failings of the inquiry body. Since then, NAC has been a leading critic of the commission itself and its report. After three post-pone-ments, the report was finally released in November 1993 by Commission chair Patricia Baird.

The price tag for the Commission was \$29 million dollars. The final report, over one thousand pages of double-speak, spends notable time reporting the many ethical and social concerns presented to them during its public review process. In-depth analysis of serious issues was conspicuously absent. The concerns of disabled people were minimally addressed (there were three pages devoted to this topic). Proceed with care was the concluding message.

Coincidentally, it's a message that sits well with the pharmaceutical and drug companies that the Commission spent a lot of money consulting. And it's probably a message that will sit well with most Canadians. One has to wonder whether that would be true had a real public discussion of the issues been provided for by the commission.

As it was, the public consultation process left much to be desired. Researchers and staff employed by the commission repeatedly report that the entire process was clouded in secrecy. In fact, there was so much secrecy that four of the commissioners, unable to obtain adequate information regarding the ongoing research, filed suit against the Federal government and commission-chair Patricia Baird. Twelve days later they were fired by Brian Mulroney.

We need to ask ourselves, in an open and full public discussion process, whether we want to proceed with these technologies; whether they exist

on a continuum, a slippery slope, whether we can draw clear divisive lines between various techniques, and if so, which ones.

Gwenne Basen said, "one of the things that is important is that the debate go on in all kinds of different constituencies. It's something that should have happened (with the RC) and it didn't. So it has to happen".

We need to seriously consider whether by transforming the way we make babies, we are in the process transforming ourselves. Until that process is achieved, NAC is calling for a moratorium on the proliferation of NRT activities.

FRANKENSTEIN REVISITED

My dreams were therefore undisturbed by reality and I entered with the greatest diligence into the search for the philosopher's stone and the elixir of life.

Remember I am not recording the vision of a madman

— Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

The idea of replacing human reproduction, or at least severely altering it with human-made technology, is not a new one. It continues to entice not only the interests of the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, but also our imagination, just as it did when Mary Shelly published *Frankenstein* in 1818. The fact that Kenneth Brannagh's film version is grossing millions of dollars is not surprising, as it echoes the interest provoked over a century ago by Shelly's book.

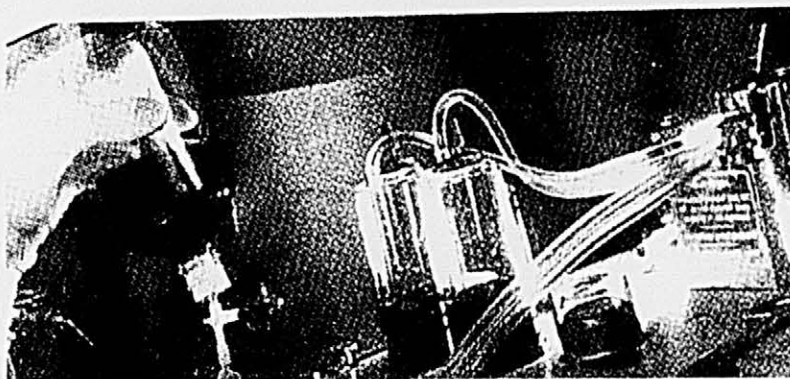
It seems as though ever since the scientific revolution, we have been captivated by the idea of using science and technology to expand the benefits of human existence. Shelly's book, and the current NRTs now in use, demand the question of when this search has been carried too far.

Gwenne Basen in the book *Misconceptions*, suggests that an answer to that question can be found in Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*, a comparison that she is not alone in making. She writes, "Mary's warning is not about the monsters we create but about the monsters we risk becoming when creation becomes a laboratory act, separated from sex and love...". In transforming the way we create human life, Basen writes that "we cannot help but transform who we are, and what we will become".

By seeking to take reproduction out of the hands of nature and into the laboratories of science, we may in fact be on the road to becoming monsters ourselves. Such a shift poses significant social consequences, and a quick glance at history is enough to indicate their potentially disastrous character.

The subtitle of Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein* is often overlooked: "The Modern Prometheus". Prometheus was a Greek mythical figure who stole fire from heaven and taught humans how to use it. For this, he was punished and killed by Zeus.

Although the story of Prometheus is a myth, it provides an interesting analogy to the current issues of NRTs. Should we be looking to control our modern day fire, the most essential element of our existence? What will happen if we succeed in unlocking this ultimate of secrets? What does the wrath of Zeus look like in the twentieth century?



VIEWED IN LIGHT OF THE SIGNIFICANT RISKS INVOLVED, BOTH DOCUMENTED AND UNKNOWN, THE NEW REPRODUCTIVE PROCEDURES BEING USED AS TREATMENT ARE IN FACT EXPERIMENTAL. AND WOMEN ARE BEING USED AS THE GUINEA PIGS.

GLOSSARY

(NRTs) New Reproductive Technologies

(AI) Artificial Insemination: donated sperm is injected into a woman's uterus. AI is the most commonly used procedure for women without male partners who want to conceive. Each year, 5 more children are born with AI than adopted in Canada; AI children are 10 times more common than IVF (In Vitro Fertilization) children.

Royal Commission report says that AI should be available through the public health care system.

(IVF) In Vitro Fertilization: donated sperm and or eggs are joined in a petri dish to produce an embryo, which is then placed in a woman's uterus to carry to full pregnancy.

Royal Commission report: says IVF should be used as research, and only offered as treatment when it is known to be effective.

Fertility drugs: used to induce ovulation as a treatment for infertility.

(PND) Pre-Natal Diagnosis: various procedures that allow for diagnostic evaluation of a fetus before it is born. These procedures include the following:

- **amniocentesis** : suggested to all women over the (arbitrarily chosen) age of 35 whose fetuses are said to be at risk. A needle is placed through the abdomen sac and fluid, which is then analysed for malformations, fetal sex, and over 150 biochemical disorders. It is covered by public health.

- **(CVS) Chorionic villus sampling** : the fetal tissue is accessed by a tube inserted through the vagina and cervix to the placenta. It reveals fetal sex and possible malformations or disorders. It is more common but less accurate than amniocentesis, and can be performed earlier in pregnancy. It is covered by public health.

- **ultrasound examinations:** high frequency sound waves are projected onto the uterus and reflected back, allowing a visual picture on a t.v. screen.

Sex-Selection Procedures: these consist of two types. Pre-conceptual sex-selection occurs before the fertilization of an egg, when sperm with an X chromosome is separated from sperm with a Y chromosome and then used in AI to try to produce the desired sex. Post-conceptual conception relies on PND techniques to determine the sex of a fetus, and then aborted if it is not the desired sex.

The Royal Commission report strongly says that the use of sex-selection techniques for non-medical procedures should be prohibited.

NAC's POSITION: In a June 1994 draft document released after its annual general meeting, NAC proposed a moratorium which would cover "the opening of any new IVF clinics, the introduction into clinical practice of any new reproductive technology or genetic technology, and the expansion of existing technologies."

The technologies listed here are by no means the only existing technologies. There are several other complicated technologies involving reproduction which are being pursued in private research laboratories, but which critics fear will soon make their way into other applications. These include in vitro maturation, which removes the ovaries from corpses or fetuses and sucks out their eggs to make embryos; pre-implantation diagnosis, which screens embryos created in IVF or taken from a woman, and (re)places it in the uterus for gestation if it "passes" the screening. Other processes include the stockpiling and freezing of embryos and eggs for research purposes.

CANADA HAD FORCED STERILIZATION LAWS FOR MENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE AS EARLY AS 1928, EARLIER THAN THE NAZIS

THE OMBUDSPERSON FOR STUDENTS

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT TO SENATE OF THE MCGILL OMBUDSPERSON FOR STUDENTS FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 1993 TO AUGUST 31, 1994

Submitted by Estelle Hopmeyer, McGill University Ombudsperson for Students

I am pleased to present the Seventh Annual Report of the McGill University Ombudsperson for Students for the reporting period September 1, 1993 to August 31, 1994, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Office as approved by the Senate and the Board of Governors (copy attached).

My mandate as student Ombudsperson began September 1, 1993. I entered a position that had been competently filled by a colleague, Annette Werk, for the six previous years. She had opened the office in 1987, holding a quarterly time position. In the following year, 1988, this position was increased to a half-time position. In November 1991 a new office, with secretarial support, was opened at 3534 University. This office, a safe and confidential one, ensures easy access for most McGill students. The office will be moving to Burnside in the new year to provide wheelchair access to the Ombudsperson and Equity Offices.

My experience on September 1st, was like that of a sprinter at the start of a 100 yard dash. While I had some knowledge and understanding of University system and the relevant skills appropriate for the position, the trials were over, and students were requiring informed immediate help. September is a very busy time in the office and I was very fortunate to have a number of people available for consultation. They will be acknowledged at the end of the report.

THE MANDATE

The mandate of the Ombudsperson is the impartial investigation of complaints made by McGill Students who feel that their rights as students have not been respected by some member(s) of the faculty and/or staff of the University. This may require:

- (1) a referral to appropriate University personnel
- (2) consultation with the student to enable them to intervene on their own behalf
- (3) intervention(s) on the part of the Ombudsperson on behalf of the student.

As my predecessor has indicated in previous reports one of the primary goals of the University in supporting the position of the Ombudsperson for students at McGill is to try to solve student problems/complaints through informal negotiation rather than resorting to the more formal grievance procedures. I found this to be so, as the large majority of cases I worked with this year were resolved through mediation.

I was most impressed by the very positive response I received from Faculty, Staff, Associate Deans and Deans when I approached them concerning a case. The role of the Ombudsperson was clear, and the process respected. The neutrality of the office was understood and every effort was made to provide clarity and to arrive at a fair resolution to the problem. It is through these close, collaborative working relationships that student problems get resolved and that McGill remains a University committed to providing quality education in a student centred manner.

It is important to note, however, that not all cases were resolved to the students hoped for outcome, eg. admission as visiting student, but rather that I was most often satisfied that justice prevailed.

DISCUSSION OF CASES

Statistics

The Ombuds Office recorded 203 cases this year. Phone calls for information and referral were generally not included in the statistics. This can be seen in more detail in the statistical summary and tables which follow (Tables 1-4).

The number of cases seen this year are down from the last two years by approximately 50 cases (20%). There are a number of possible explanations: different reporting systems; stu-

dent access to other sources of help, for example, Dean of Students, Associate Deans. The data does not indicate the level of involvement in each case. One case can be solved with a single phone call, while others may require extensive consultation and intensive intervention over a period of many months. Often this work is done on the telephone during the evenings and on the weekends. A new reporting system on cases will be instituted for the eighth annual report that will give a better picture of this involvement.

While the mandate of the Ombudsperson is to work "case" by "case" on private troubles the annual report is an opportunity to identify public issues that impact on the life of students in such a way that individual or collective rights and liberties are at risk. The next section of the report outlines several such issues, a number of which have previously been identified in the Ombudsperson's Annual Reports.

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Harassment

Harassment was raised in the second, fourth, fifth and sixth reports of the Ombudsperson. For this reason I will begin with the issue and state that this problem still exists in the McGill Community. The recent work of the sub-committee of the Joint Senate/Board Committee on Equity on Racial Discrimination however, should begin to address this problem in a more systematic way. I have not dealt with sexual harassment as these cases are referred directly to the appropriate resource. What I address are cases of students who feel that they have been harassed by professors, supervisors and others in positions of authority. Some of these complaints are based on racist statements or derogatory remarks about women made in the classroom. Other situations which are much more delicate and complex are those that relate to a one-on-one relationship, for example: a graduate student/supervisor or a student/professor in a small language lab, or a student/professor conference in a professors office or lab.

While a Code of Faculty Rights and Responsibilities similar to the students green book is not

the total answer to this problem I support the idea that McGill could benefit from such a document. Otherwise I suspect that the majority of these instances will continue to go unreported and if reported unresolved as students generally feel too vulnerable to proceed with the concerns while still in their programmes.

Safety and Security

The safety of all members of the McGill community is of the highest priority. Recent events in sister Universities underscore the importance of this concern and the need to have procedures to ensure the well-being of all students, staff and faculty. Such procedures are in place, and for the most part protect the collective while respecting individual rights through Appeal Procedures etc. As part of the current review and updating of the Green book under the able leadership of Dean of Students Irwin Gopnik, sections concerning student discipline are being considered and debated. While outside of the scope of this Report I urge a careful examination of this section to ensure an equitable balance between individual and collective rights.

Faculty Discretion

I discovered early in my work that Faculties have a range of practices and procedures concerning standing, readmission, exam deferrals and supplements to name a few areas. While this may be reasonable to the Faculties concerned it does not always seem equitable. Associate Deans, further, have a fair degree of discretionary power, which, while often exercised to the benefit of the student, contributes to this lack of uniformity in the University. For example, some Faculties do not have supplemental exams, others do permit deferrals. A further example, was the type of medical information required for missed examinations, course withdrawal etc. Several efforts were undertaken this year to ensure more equity. Dr. Tellier of the Health Services circulated material to all Associate Deans concerning medical notes. Another example was the meeting Joan Wolforth, Coordinator of the Office for Students with Disabilities, had with all of the Associate Deans on issues relating to Students with disabilities.

Some review of the range of procedures might usefully be undertaken to determine if these differences are reasonable or simply based on past practice.

Graduate Studies

The most complex cases this year have related to graduate students. These cases have covered a wide range of situations including: admissions, standing, departmental request to withdraw from programmes, intellectual property, harassment, to name a few of the most significant issues. Graduate admissions are generally conducted by individual departments/Faculties and particularly in limited enrolment programmes students had difficulty in accessing the Admissions officer to determine if there was an appeal process. At times I was also not able to obtain this information. This is in direct contrast to the Admission office where I had immediate access to Mariela Johansen who provided the relevant information with speed and courtesy despite her heavy responsibilities. Standing at the Graduate level can also be a complex issue. Students enter Graduate programmes from all parts of Canada and the world with every expectation that they will successfully complete degree requirements. Several students asked to withdraw from programmes due to unsatisfactory academic standing exercised an appeal procedure with Graduate Studies. This was conducted by the Associate Vice-Principal, Graduate

Studies, in a fair manner but has led to several grievances due to procedures followed within the Departments concerned. Concerning ownership of intellectual property, Graduate Studies is in the process of reviewing policies relating to this important aspect of the student/supervisor relationship. These guidelines will be very useful in resolving issues of this nature.

The graduate student, as stated earlier, often has to negotiate his/her position with a supervisor who has considerable authority and power in determining the successful completion of a graduate degree. Problems in this area are the most difficult to resolve and require strong support from senior administrators to ensure that justice prevails.

Faculty Concerns

While not part of the Mandate of the Ombudsperson to deal with faculty concerns I received several calls (some not part of the statistics) from colleagues requesting advice or consultation. The majority of these related to faculty "rights" and highlighted the need for an impartial person to assist faculty. I would recommend that this be explored with the concerned groups eg. MAUT, MUNASA. The majority of OMBUDS Offices in Quebec have this expanded mandate to provide assistance to staff and faculty as well as students.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A first year in a new position is a year of learning, requiring support and consultation. I would like to acknowledge the following colleagues who helped ensure the transition to a new Ombudsperson while maintaining the high standards established during the term of Annette Werk.

- * Annette Werk, former Ombudsperson and Social Work colleague
- * Jackie Fee-Owen, and my colleagues in the Equity Office, Honora Shaughnessy and Bev Evoy
- * Dean of Students, Irwin Gopnik
- * Vice-Principal Academic, William Leggett
- * Associate Vice-Principal, Graduate Studies, Lydia White
- * Associate Deans of Arts, Science, Music, Education and Macdonald College. Profs. Jagdish Handa, Nicole Domingue, Nick deTakacsy, Kenneth Woodman, John Gradwell, Deborah Buszard
- * Charlotte Legare, Faculty of Graduate Studies
- * Mariela Johansen, Director of Admissions
- * Jill Presser and Lawrence Hansen, Legal Information Clinic
- * Students who consulted the office and shared their concerns and wisdom

CONCLUSION

When I accepted the position as Ombudsperson I understood the responsibility that I was undertaking the work for justice for students at McGill. I have been on faculty at McGill since 1970, involved in administration for many years, and have generally been impressed by the University's willingness and ability to individualize students despite the multitude of rules and procedures required to administer such a large institution. My first year as Ombudsperson has reinforced, in most instances, this feeling about the humanity of our University. The challenge for us all is to maintain academic standards of excellence while respecting the rights of one another. This involves carrying our responsibilities as faculty, staff and students, to make this an environment where we can work and study in a dynamic, diversified environment.

TABLE 1 NO. OF CASES IN SCHOOL YR. 93/94 BY PROBLEM TYPE & FACULTY/DEPT

Problem Type	Admissions	Complex	Info/Referral	Other	Total
Faculty/Dept					
Arts	4	22	18	0	44
Science	0	3	3	0	6
Medicine	1	7	0	0	8
Grad. Studies	0	10	2	0	12
Management	0	7	2	0	9
Education	2	13	2	0	19
Engineering	1	6	1	0	8
Core Ed.	0	12	2	0	14
Admissions	3	0	0	0	3
Music	0	4	0	0	4
Law	0	1	0	0	1
Staff	0	0	3	0	3
Other	4	9	3	1	17
Total	17	149	36	1	203

TABLE 2 NO. OF CASES IN SCHOOL YR. 93/94 BY FACULTY/DEPT & GENDER

Gender	Male	Female	Group	Unknown	Total
Faculty/Dept					
Arts	18	26	1	0	45
Science	9	13	1	0	23
Medicine	3	4	1	0	8
Grad. Studies	3	8	0	0	11
Management	5	4	0	0	9
Education	5	14	0	0	19
Engineering	6	2	0	0	8
Core Ed.	8	6	0	0	14
Admissions	1	3	0	0	4
Music	1	3	0	0	4
Law	1	1	0	0	2
Staff	1	2	0	0	3
Other	3	6	3	2	14
Total	66	129	6	2	203

TABLE 3 NO. OF CASES IN SCHOOL YR. 93/94 BY PROBLEM CATEGORY & GENDER

Gender	Male	Female	Group	Unknown	Total
Problem Cat.					
Admissions	5	12	0	0	17
Core	0	3	0	0	3
Academic	38	76	2	0	116
Security & Safety	1	1	0	0	2
Non Acad. Misconduct	8	5	2	1	16
Financial Aid	0	1	0	0	1
Reg. & Course	3	7	0	0	10
Acad. Miscon.	6	13	0	0	21
Harassment	2	3	1	0	6
Exam	2	1	0	0	3
Libraria	0	1	0	0	1
Stud. Assoc.	0	0	1	0	1
Other	1	0	0	1	2
Total	66	129	6	2	203

TABLE 4 NUMBER OF CASES IN SCHOOL YR. 93/94

Gender	Male	Female	Group	Unknown	Total
Rec'd Inter.	45	89	3	0	147
No. Interv.	14	27	2	2	45
Unk. Missing	7	3	0	0	11
Total	66	129	6	2	203

Front Line Assembly: no alternative

BY JAMES FORBES

Initially, I was quite excited to review Front Line Assembly's latest release, *Millennium*. After a listen and an interview, I was disappointed to find that a band who once epitomised a genre, are beginning to sound a little hollow.

What was innovative about FLA back in the late 80s was their pioneering of many of the early forms of techno music. Unfortunately, their mid-90s response is an all-too formulaic album that is strongly reminiscent of Trent Reznor's work in Nine Inch Nails, or of Al Jourgensen's in Ministry's *The Mind Is A Terrible Thing To Taste*.

Capitalising on the same ever-popular themes of doom, gloom, and urban destruction, the angst that made FLA unique seems a bit lost in this decade's confusion of musical styles. What is perplexing about bands like FLA is why they haven't progressed with the global electronic music movement that they helped found.

Although they credit bands like Orbital and the Future Sound of London, there seems to be very little

of what these bands represent in *Millennium*. What does seem clear is that while FLA may have honed their particular brand of nastiness, there is nothing aside from the trademark vocals to distinguish it from any other bit of nastiness, namely that of NIN or Ministry, who frankly did it better and earlier.

Which is not to say that *Millennium* is a bad album; it is an excellent album of the genre, if that's what you are looking for. However, if you are holding out for the revolution that alternative bands like FLA heralded, get ready for a long, plastic-wrapped wait, because the large music companies that dominate the distribution of almost every form of music seem poised to capitalise on every bit of teenage angst your university career has left in it.

Which is all to say I'm disappointed that one can't really find an alternative any more. Not when it's being marketed so clearly and cleverly as it is now. And besides, after almost a decade of whining about how awful the world is, don't they and their fans ever wonder why it isn't getting any better?



PHOTO BY JOHN WADSWORTH

FRONT LINE ASSEMBLY: former heralders of a new musical age

Madness and hallucinogens: Montréal in the '60s

BY LEAH ROSS

Brian Johnson, Maclean's salted entertainer writer and recent author of *Volcano Days*, tastes the wine in an overtly bohemian cafe on the lower plateau of Montréal. He grimaces and begins to complain in rusty French.

The waitress shrugs, "C'est overt, c'est dommage ça," she smiles and vanishes.

"I love this city!" Johnson beams.

Volcano Days is Johnson's first work of fiction. The novella chronicles the story of a paranoid young labour reporter, who moonlights as a "laminated Marxist" revolutionary in Montréal in the 70's. This virile political animal can't take the heat of the double life he is leading so he goes ballistic and ends up having hallucinogenic sex on a beach in Lipari in an effort to quell his delusions.

The book is a satisfying read, (I highly recommend it for the train ride from Montréal to Toronto.) The prose is lyrical and vivid. The sex scenes are particularly, ahem, vivid. It was also short enough (166 pages) to sustain my interest through yet another ode-to-the-good-old-days when boomers didn't have to hire sitters before they hauled out the bong pipes and started weighing the merits of existentialism vs. anarchism.

Johnson himself openly admits to feeling nostalgia for a Montréal of the past. He explains it as "a time about people, large numbers of people wanting change. There was a huge amount of anti-capitalist, anti-colonialist feeling in the air." Johnson also points out that this undercurrent of revolution wasn't unique to that particular era.

"It has happened a lot throughout history. We were reading the books, going to the demonstrations, doing the drugs- and suddenly the world seemed

book review

Volcano Days • by Brian Johnson • Somerville House • \$19.95

to be responding. Right now baby boomers control the cultural apparatus of this continent, so it's natural for writers and film makers to be going back and exploring those experiences."

Make no mistake, *Volcano Days* is a loosely fictionalized memoir of Johnson's true experiences. When asked why he chose to keep the narrator of the book nameless Johnson responded, "I thought it would be phony to make up a name. I see no reason to protect myself, it's not like I'm American. Technically the book is fiction, in that I fictionalized when it was neces-

sary. Most of the dialogue I made up. The difficult part was trying to find the voice of my younger self." Later on in the conversation he corrects me when I refer to the narrator as "he." "No the," Johnson insists, "me."

It is difficult to reconcile this mild mannered man in a silk shirt who sits across the table eating shrimp with the self proclaimed revolutionary artist in the book, who's idea of an afternoon stroll is climbing a live volcano.

But Johnson's madness has a self-deprecating, reflective quality about it. At times you get the sense he is com-

pletely aware of his delusions and having a great time while they last. "There were days when I felt like a Brazilian boy at large, being ravished by the civilized world. Flirting on the fringes of some vast homosexual underground, slipping on satin shirts, feeling the hair curl down my neck, dancing, risking, fleeing the terror of the gang. I had charm."

One begins to wonder, how did Johnson keep his psychotic odyssey so fresh in his memory? "I knew I was crazy," he smiles fondly, "And although there was no method to my madness, there was mischief in it. I had an overview. It must have been the reporter in me because I kept detailed notes and eventually put them in a file marked 'un-novel.' I have this memory of sitting alone in a room and thinking: some

day you will come to a point when you will say this wasn't real, the world around you will convince you that you really didn't feel these feelings. Just remember- this is real."

At this point I ask the question that has been nagging at the back of my brain since he arrived. Does he think maybe he just did a tad too much acid?

At this, Johnson becomes slightly defensive, "Everybody asks me that. No. In the craziest times I was completely sober." The book backs up this claim:

"I did not act crazy on acid. There was no need to. There was always so much to observe, so much detail to account for, that taking extravagant action seemed beside the point. For me, LSD clarified all of the ABCs of sensory processing, including its logic: it heightened rationality. My acid trips were luxurious, but absurdly sane. In the evolutionary process of my madness, they were the bean counting sessions. Each trip was a kind of audit, an occasion to demagnetize the mind and start fresh. A chance to reform the software. On LSD, I didn't lose my marbles; I played with them."

Volcano Days comes off as a lengthy, eloquent tribute to madness. A refreshing change in this era of self-help, prozac and the ever spreading plague of low self esteem. Fortunately the narrator of *Volcano Days* doesn't find a support group, but he doesn't kill himself either. Instead, he takes up the bongos.

From about this point on the story begins to wane. And here is where the problem of true-to-life memoir writing comes in. Sadly, (although realistically) Johnson's demented protagonist returns to Canada and over the course of about 50 pages, leisurely reclines back into his right mind. In the mean time, Johnson loses the reader's attention. Real life? Sanity? Yawn.

Anna Rosmus (continued from page 1)

Those victims and an additional 50,000 children as well as Poles, Russians and Ukrainian workers were massacred even as American troops were entering the town. "Today there is hardly any reminder of those human beings and what happened to them," she added. In those fields of death where the workers were murdered after digging their own graves, there now stand stores, children's parks, and corn fields. The Bavarian government ordered the destruction of all Jewish Holocaust memorials.

The current situation is not much better in the region. David Irving, the notorious British journalist, is now allowed back into Germany even though his public denials of the Holocaust are illegal according to federal law. The largest convention hall near Passau hosted him and speakers sharing his interest, although a survivor of Auschwitz was refused a place to speak.

"It is hard to go on in such a place," Rosmus said. "It is hard to get things published in such a time."

In 1985, a former concentration camp guard shot a child Holocaust survivor from Passau who was hidden during the war. Despite Rosmus' pleadings, the local newspaper refused to print the incident. A movie maker, however, heard about the killing and made a documentary called *Abraham's Gold* that soon became world renowned. Rosmus said that all over the world one could learn that the

murder was real news, only in Passau was it fiction.

Passau's last mayor was a Gestapo spy. In addition to the fact that "he never faced a judge or jury ... he didn't see any reason to resign." Furthermore, the Passau community completely supports him. According to Rosmus, the town's official reason for this injustice is that if there were a precedent preventing ex-Nazis from gaining political power, "no one in Passau would be able to become a mayor."

Aside from her books, *Exodus: In the Shadow of Mercy, History of the Jews of Passau, Resistance and Persecution: Passau 1933-1939*, Robert Klein: *A German Jew Looks Back*, *Wintergreen: Suppressed Murders and Max Hartmann*, Rosmus is also establishing a museum in Lower Bavaria outside of Passau to remember the killed and deported Jews of Passau. After the war, 10,000 Jews were liberated in the area and urged to leave in February, 1949. Nothing was left of them, Rosmus said. "No memorial, not a single line in the local chronicles."

Rosmus is driven to bring back the surviving expelled Jews of Passau. She envisions them speaking to younger generations, educating them about their town's past. Rosmus fears that "in a very few years, there will be no more survivors" and no one left to help.

The closing speaker thanked Rosmus saying "We are often flooded with theory ... that we often forget what it is to put these ideas into action ... I think you've reminded us tonight."

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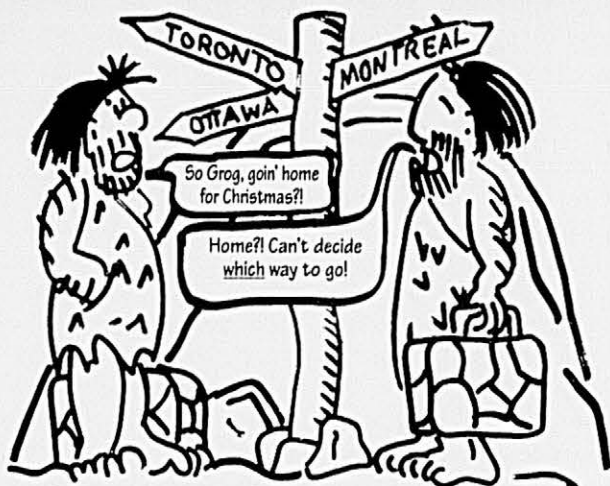
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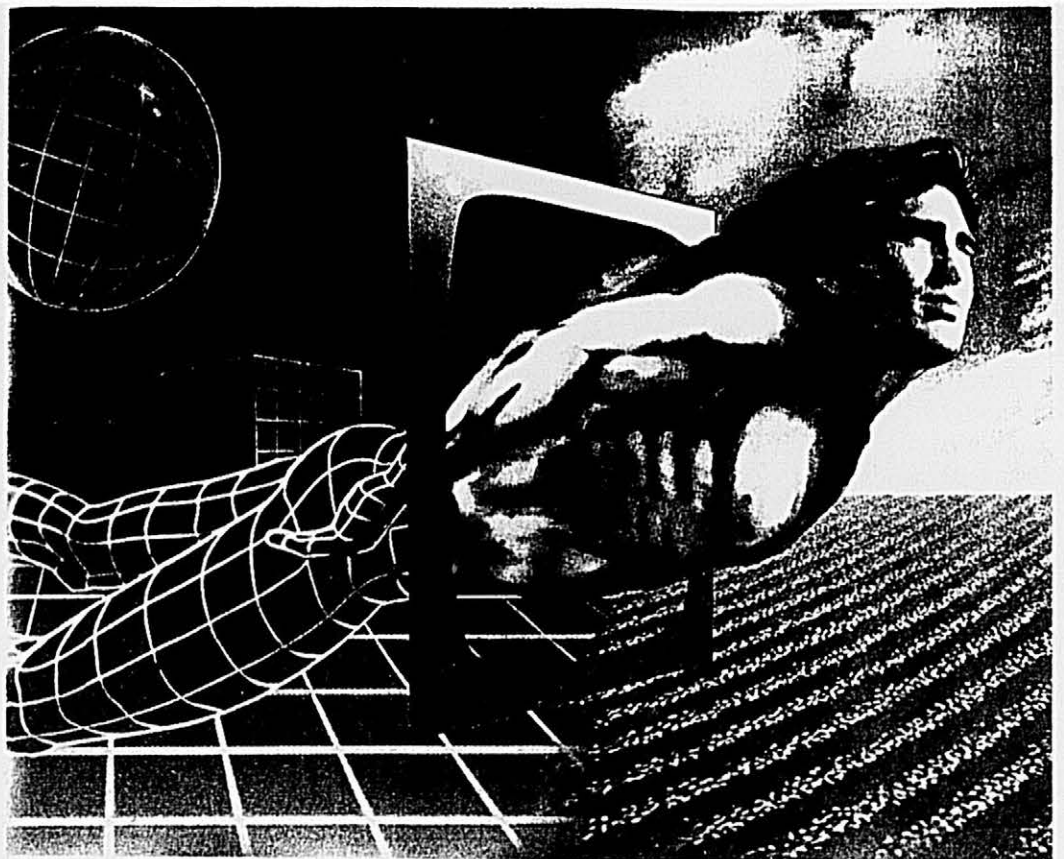


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• NEWS •

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1994



The Internet in an easy-to-swallow pill

Marcos Silva speaks at McGill

BY MAX FRANCISCO

The Student Electronic Communications Collective organized their first event this year to promote their mandate of bringing awareness of the Internet to the McGill community.

"The Internet: what it is and where it's going" featured Marcos Silva who is a computer services librarian and a faculty lecturer at McGill. Silva gave a very general overview of the Internet, its past and its future. He gave the audience, who were a mixture of novice and expert Internet users, an idea of what services the Internet has to offer to users. These include access to large databases and communication with peers across the globe.

There are, however, many problems and obstacles faced by the Internet, and Marco Silva addressed many of these issues in the seminar.

One very important problem that most people seem to forget is the segregation that occurs on the Internet. "Basically, there are two classes: those who can exploit [the resources available on the Internet] and those who can't or don't," said Silva.

Some groups who fall under the second category are countries which are having difficulty trying to get online. "I think Cuba is the only country in the Western Hemisphere who doesn't have full Internet connectivity, probably because of the embargo," he said. "I think we need to take an active stance such that public access is possible for everyone."

Although there is a government program to create an "information superhighway" to give the public access to Internet resources, Canarie, the government group planning the highway, is concentrating on the business and industry aspect

instead of on research, education and public service.

"Education is the very last thing [on Canarie's agenda]. There is very little mention of education and social service," said Silva when he compared Canarie's plan of action to the plan being implemented by our southern neighbors.

The problem with having the information superhighway being industrially oriented is that once the Internet has been commercialized, the corporation that owns the Internet may regulate it for content. Prodigy, a commercial online service, already screens the messages posted to its news areas.

This brings about the problem of the rights of users of the Internet. "You have no privacy on the Internet," said Silva. By the nature of how the Internet operates, people can have access to your files and messages. One thing that can offer the user privacy protection is legislation. "We not only need to find out what can be said and what can be published, but we need to know what shouldn't be said and what shouldn't be published."

For this legislation to come into being our governments need to know what is going on. The problem is that the voice for computer rights and freedoms in Canada is very small. "There are very few lobbying groups for our agenda. I can think of only two groups right now," said Silva. Those groups are the Coalition for Public Information, and the second being the Canadian Education Network Coalition.

So what can we do? How can we protect our rights? Who can voice our opinions about how the information superhighway is formed? As Silva mentioned in his seminar, a group finally exists that students can turn to. That group is the Student Electronic Communications Collective.

"We want to become the body that represents students in communications issues and policies at McGill," said SECC Coordinator Jason Ridgley.

So far, the SECC has become involved in the debate about computer rights and freedoms in article 12b of the proposed amendments to the Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures; and plans to discuss the proposed charges for modem usage.

"Basically we're interested in electronic communications issues at McGill; specifically, privacy of digital information; electronic student services at McGill; and student education and involvement in the Internet," said Ridgley.

Although the group currently holds interim status, with full club status impending, it already has many projects in the works, one of the largest being the creation of the "Virtual Union Building" (VUB).

The VUB will bring many of the services that the Union building offers online. Some of the services they plan to offer, such as club information and course evaluations, are very ambitious. Currently, the VUB has not got a machine or a physical space, but Ridgley explained that these initial stages do not require an official SECC computer.

"We want to sketch out the architecture [of the VUB] in the first stages so that we won't have to keep changing it as we go along," said Ridgley. SECC has been meeting with McGill administrators in order to discuss how the Virtual Union Building will work with the plans of the university.

If you would like to get in touch with the Student Electronic Communications Collective send email to popa0007@po-box.mcgill.ca or drop off a letter in the SECC mailbox at the SSMU desk.

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ANNOUNCEMENT - Volunteers needed to share dog walking for Senior living on Sherbrooke near McGill University. For more information contact Carolee or Leigh Ann at 398-6243.

Auditions are being held for Inter-Mission Theatre Company Nov. 29, Dec. 3 & 4. For more info call "Hamlet" at 421-6249.

McGill Nightline is an information, listening and referral service. Open 6pm-3am. 398-6246.

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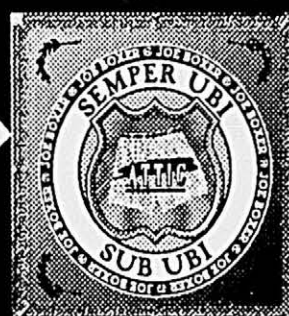
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events

• The Hispanic Studies Students' Association presents "El eterno femenino" a play by Rosario Castellanos, on Friday, Dec. 2 at 20h00. The play is at the Player's

Theatre, Shatner Bldg. Admission is \$3. Doors open at 19h30. The play is in Spanish.

• The Yellow Door Coffee House presents live literature with Jason Goatcher and Robert Paquin with Michael Brown on Dec. 1 at

20h30. Doors open at 20h00. Admission is \$2, Open Stage to follow. The Yellow Door is at 3625 Aylmer between Pine and Prince Arthur. Info. 398-6243.

• "The Harpomanics" with Jane Gabriels play at The Yellow Door Coffee House on Dec. 2. Doors open at 20h00 and music begins at 20h30. Admission is \$2. Open mike to follow.

• The Yellow Door Coffee House presents Charlie Sohmer with Vince Half-Hide with Andy Sheppard on Dec. 3. Door opens at 19h30, show begins at 20h00. Admission is \$8, \$6 for students.

• The Erskine and American United Church will have a service of Lessons and Carols for the Second Sunday of Advent on Sun. Dec. 4. at 19h00. The Church is at the corner of Sherbrooke and du Musée (Metro Guy). A Freewill offering is encouraged. All welcome.

• On Dec. 1 Café Kaballah will host a "Folk Stew" with local musicians. There will be an open mike and scheduled musicians starting at 21h00. The Café is at 68 Duluth est. Free admission. All welcome.

• The Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom invites all to "Tea and Timpani" on Sunday Dec. 11. The guest soloist will be Catherine Adelman, who will play familiar Classical and Romantic piano pieces. The performance will be accompanied by tea, sweets and pleasant conversation at 14h00 in the Community Hall. A voluntary contribution is encouraged. All welcome.

• "Israel, the Peace Process and Diaspora: A Changing Relationship" is the topic of an Israel Briefing Seminar by the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research. Prof. Frederick Krantz will speak at the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom at 4100 Sherbrooke W (Metro Atwater). Sunday, Dec. 4 at 09h30. Bagel breakfast: \$3. 937-3575.

• The Jewish Women's Project presents a Rush Chudesh Program - a celebration of the new Jewish month of Tevet. All women are welcome at Hillel, 3460 Stanley (below Dr. Penfield) on Sat. Dec. 3 at 17h45. Refreshments will be served.

• Submit to Latitudes- The McGill Journal for Developing Area Studies. Simply drop off two copies of your undergraduate paper on developing areas' issues in the Latitudes mailbox, Shatner bldg. Photos and graphics also needed. 279-5413.

• L'Opera de Montréal will stage a company premiere of *La vie parisienne* from Dec. 10 to 19 in the Theatre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts. Tickets start at \$21.50 and are available at the offices of the Opera de Montréal, the Place des Arts box office and all Admission outlets. 985-2258.

• The Tall Club-Club des Grands de Montréal is sponsoring a social event for all women over 5'10" and men over 6'2". It will be held at *le Commensal* 2115 rue St. Denis (at the corner of Sherbrooke) on Nov. 30 at 19h00. 847-8853.

• A lecture on "Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide" on Fri., Dec. 2 at

12h30 in Arts 160. Thérèse Lavoie-Roux, vice-chairperson of the Canadian Senate Committee on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide is the speaker. All welcome.

• McGill Health Services and Peer Education present "World AIDS Day" on Thursday, Dec. 1. Ben, a person living with AIDS, will speak about his experiences at 11h45. Prizes, games and community groups will all be present. Shatner 107/108 from 10h00-15h00.

• Dr. Rosamund Lewis of Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) will speak in the Leacock Building, Room 26 at 18h00 on Wed. Nov. 30. The topic is international health and the activities of her organization. Sponsored by Medical Students for Social Responsibility and Osler

Medical Aid Foundation.

• The Social Works Students for Justice will hold a Strike Committee Meeting to discuss participation in the January 25 national student strike. The meeting is on Wed. 30 Nov. in Room 104, Wilson Hall at 18h00. Call 848-0057 or 487-9465.


• On Thursday, Dec. 1 from 18h00 to 21h00 the Montréal Memorial Holocaust Center along with DC Books and DLI Productions host the book launch of *The Aftermath* by Henry Lillienhiem. This event will take place at the McGill University Faculty Club, 3450 McTavish Street. The author will be present to sign copies of the book. Refreshments will be served. Call Judit Kenyeres at 271-7040.

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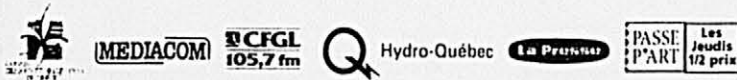
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Cuban-Americans blacklist Puerto-Rican artist

Puerto Rican singer Danny Rivera has become the most recent victim of a defamatory campaign and boycott in Miami. The campaign is directed by people who oppose Rivera because of his past performances in Cuba.

In addition, Rivera has received a veiled threat by Cuban singer Willie Chirino, who, in an article, demanded that Rivera "define" his stand on Cuba, and "if not, pay the consequences."

According to Judith Pagani, the promoter of a concert which took place in Miami on November 18, Hispanic radio refused all of our attempts to carry out a publicity campaign for Danny's performance... Danny Rivera is pro-independence (for Puerto Rico) and for those people, a person who is pro-independence is a leftist, and a communist."

Marta Garcia, one of the spokespeople for the Puerto-Rican Cultural Front in New York, said her organization has received a large number of complaints about the treatment of Rivera, as well as many other artists, by sectors of Cubans in exile.

Source: *el diario/La Prensa* and the *New York Transfer News Collective*

Anti-government protests, elections rock Italy

Millions of Italians went to the polls Nov. 19 in 239 towns and one region to elect mayors and city council members. The election was widely viewed as a referendum on the popularity of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's rightist government. Early results show Berlusconi's Forza Italia the clear loser, while a left-wing alliance and Berlusconi's coalition partners, the fascist National Alliance and racist Northern League, showed strong gains.

The elections followed a week of massive anti-government protests and strikes. On Nov. 12 over two million people demonstrated in Rome against the increasing dominance of fascists in the cabinet.

Following the Rome demonstration, hundreds of thousands of students protested on campuses throughout the country against a government decision to end free university education. Berlusconi's cabinet has drafted a resolution that would establish massive fees for students wishing to attend college. The country's three largest labor federations have called a general strike for Dec. 2 to force the government to resign and call new elections.

Source: *People's Weekly World*

Massive evictions carried out by police in India

The brutal demolition of pavement communities from Mahim to Matunga in Bombay City since the morning of November 14 have rendered 5,000 people homeless in India. While the state celebrated the birthday of Jawaharlal Nehru, its First Prime Minister (aka Children's Day), 1,500 children lost their homes.

The Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) has ambitious plans for concreting an entire stretch of road which is lined with homes. The forced evictions are being carried out by the local Municipal authorities, supported by a massive police force.

In protest of the death of a four year-old girl, people threw stones at vehicles passing by and caused a road block. This is the same community which faced massive evictions in 1981, when people were thrown out of city limits.

Source: *YUVA, Bombay*